

Sisterhood Mishloah Manot Project

We are delighted to report that this year's new and improved Mishloah Manot project was a great success. 73 participants sent Mishloah Manot or Purim greetings to 219 congregants. Since we purchased the baskets from

Keren Aniyem, your participation contributed to their support of over 500 impoverished Jewish families in the New York area. Here at the Synagogue, your participation will help ensure that our Shabu'ot flowers and the Elias Room Succah are as beautiful as ever.

Shearith Israel Purim "Celebrity" Jeopardy

We thank our three formidable celebrity contestants, our shamash, Z Edinger, hazzan, Rev. Phil Sherman and our lifelong, multi-generational congregant, Mark Aaron. All three proved to be formidable contestants, but in the end, our jeopardy champion was Z Edinger after correctly questioning the following jeopardy answer:

THIS CHAPEL IS ONE OF THE ONLY RELIGIOUS EDIFICES DESIGNED BY ITS EPONYMOUS "STARCHITECT", WHO WAS ALSO A LEAD DESIGNER OF THE PARK WE FACE TODAY

Do you know the correct jeopardy question? Send it in to slandau@shearithisrael.org by Monday at 11 am to be entered into a drawing to win a fun prize.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Gabriel Lipschutz on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents Cecilia Michelson and Eduardo Lipschutz and his grandparents Nora Lipschutz and Samuel and Laura Michelson.

Thank you to Arthur and Joel Tenenholtz for sponsoring our Purim morning breakfast in memory of their father Benjamin

Our "Wellness Offerings"

Rabbi Ira Rohde

A combination of things I've read has gotten me to think about what "well-being" is, what the current vogue calls "wellness." There was the sign in the YMCA touting all of their "wellness" course-offerings, a term I don't remember being used in gyms twenty years ago. Then there was Rabbi Soloveichik's class in which he explored the various ways the term "peace-offerings" in this week's parasha could be translated. The term "shelamim" could be derived from a term for "peace," but it also could be interpreted as a term for completeness and wholeness. I pointed out that the term for "peace" in the priestly blessing also has an ambiguity of meaning. In the priestly blessing, and in the peace benediction which follows in the Amidah, where it is the final, sealing benediction, "peace" seems defined as if we are asking God to smile upon us, for Him to face us and favor us with His Shining "Countenance." Then there are our uses of terms like "peace" in greeting each other, as well as polite inquiries of "welfare." It seems that "peace," even the non-geopolitical kind, is a pretty complicated thing. In the gym, of course, they've found that exercise is not enough for good health, and they can't just tell people to combine it with yoga and meditation classes. So they've broadened the terms they use to describe their programs, made themselves more "holistic," calling them their "wellness offerings." And I'm thinking: "Hm, 'Wellness Offering,' maybe that's the term I need to translate 'zebah shelamim' in our parasha (e.g., in Lev. 7:11)." Of course, the Y doesn't use the term "welfare offerings;" that might have some political implications, although the priests in our parashah are clearly receiving handouts. But "wellness" might be just the term to capture the many different strands of meaning encompassed by the terms "shelamim" and "shalom."

Our term "welfare," was, in fact, once a word for "faring well," and our greeting is customarily accompanied by "how do you do," *מה שלומך*. "Wellness," our experts today say, is often a delicate balance of factors, including health, holistic integrity, as well as outlook, even one's smile. But the Y doesn't call their course-offerings "happiness offerings." Then they would seem like a panacea. "Wellness" is often described over the short-term; "happiness" would imply something more lasting. Our Torah also doesn't speak that much about a lasting "happiness," but we do make plenty of inquiries about "shalom," a basic "wellness." Lasting "peace" is highly elusive, but a balance of factors allowing one to weather life with strength, some degree of integrity or wholeness, and a basic "well-being" is possible. One of the shelamim or "wellness offerings" of the Torah is, of course, the "Todah," the "thanksgiving acknowledgment" offering. Rashi on our parashah refers to Ps. 108, that those who have been delivered on a sea-voyage, or travelled in the wilderness, or had been kept in prison, or had been sick and were now healed, were all bound to offer thanksgiving, and if it was in the form of a thanksgiving acknowledgment sacrifice, it was to be considered a form of "shelamim," a "wellness offering." Developing a sense of appreciation, not necessarily for the greatest happiness, but for the little things along the way that have delivered us from misfortune, is a major step towards cultivating "wellness."



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Tsav

March 25-26, 2016

Hertz Pentateuch: Torah Reading: p. 429 ; Haftarah: 439
Kaplan Living Torah: Torah Reading: p. 520 ; Haftarah: p. 1146

CANDLE LIGHTING | 6:56 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on "Justice Brandeis' Shabbat Experience" | *2015-2016 Season Sponsored by the Julis Family*

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a sermon at the conclusion of services on the topic "The Purims of John Quincy Adams"

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Office

JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Cecilia Michelson and the Shoshany Family in honor of Gabriel's bar mitzvah*

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Rabbi Hidary | 5:50 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home, 1 W 85th St Apt. 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "The Most Unusual Aspects of the Haggadah: A Pre-Pesah Shiur" | 5:50 pm | *Spring semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 6:50 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 7:50 pm

Weekday Service Times

Morning: Sunday: 8:00 AM; Mon-Fri.: 7:15 AM
Evenings: Sunday – Thursday: 6:30 PM (Minhah & Arbit)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

*Freedom, Slavery, and God:
The Many Faces of the Haggadah*
A Discussion Between

Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik and Leon Wieseltier
This Tuesday, March 29, 2016 | 7:00 pm
(Following 6:30 pm services)

No work of rabbinical literature has spoken to so many
Jews in so many ways as the Haggadah.
What are its secrets?
Free and open to the public. RSVP requested at
strauscenter@yu.edu

**British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis Visits Shearith
Israel**

Is There a Future for Jews in Europe?
Saturday, April 2

Deadline: This Monday, March 28
Sign up for and sponsor this luncheon with Rabbi Mirvis
and Rabbi Soloveichik as they discuss the future of Euro-
pean Jewry. Register at
shearithisrael.org/chief-rabbi-luncheon

**The Ultimate 21st Century Rabbi: A Leader Who is
There for All Four Sons**
Sunday, April 3 | 10:00 am

Attend the Rabbi Allen Mirvis Annual Lecture co-
sponsored by Shearith Israel and the Straus Center for To-
rah and Western Thought. Free and open to the public.
RSVP requested at strauscenter@yu.edu.

**Kurt Weill: The Idealist Composer Who Created
Illuminating Music Out of a Dark Time**
A Shearith Israel League lecture
by composer Joelle Wallach
Wednesday Evening, April 6, 2016 at 8 PM
Admission free. Light refreshments served.

**Everything You Never Knew About
Beth Olam Cemetery**
Part 1 of a 3 Part Experiential Cemetery Series
Wednesday, April 13 | 7:00 pm

Join us and our Beth Olam Partners, Bnai Jeshurun and
Shaaray Tefila, for an informative and moving
event. Marena Wisniewski will describe what she learned
and uncovered during her time as our Beth Olam Cemetery
intern. You will learn about the history of this unique part-
nership between three prominent synagogues who share an
interesting history, Shearith Israel, Bnai Jeshurun and Shaar-
ay Tefila. She will also show us some of the architectural
and historical gems and will describe efforts on our behalf to
lay the groundwork for some much needed restoration
work. The event will be punctuated with a remembrance of
those members of our three communities who died this past
year.

Teen Girls Shir Hashirim Reading
Saturday, April 30 | Eighth Day of Pesah
After Musaf on the Eighth day of Pesah, the teen girls of the
synagogue will read The Song of Songs in the Main Sanctu-
ary for the congregation following morning services in New
York and in Israel. Please contact Yehudit
at yehuditrobinson@gmail.com, if you are available
to participate.

Baseball Game with Rabbi Hidary
Sunday, April 17 | 1:05 pm | Yankee Stadium
This event is generously subsidized by John Lewin
Take me out to the ball game! Take me out to the
crowd! Join Rabbi Hidary at the Yankees vs. Seattle Mari-
ners game at Yankee Stadium. This event's sure to be a home
run! All ages are welcome. Great seats in section 217. \$65
members/\$80 non-members.
Register at shearithisrael.org/baseball

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

Sunday

- ◇ **The Book of Kings** | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am
- ◇ **Saadia Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimon den
Hollander | 9:30 am

Monday

- ◇ **Second Temple Jewish History** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm
- ◇ **Bet Midrash** | Rabbi Hidary, Phil Getz, Dr. Josh Eisen, Rab-
bi Ira Rohde, Meira Wokenfeld | 8:00 pm

Tuesday

- ◇ **Rambam's Mishneh Torah** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am
- ◇ **Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought- A Class
for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
- ◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of
Jewish Time** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm | *Spring semester
sponsored by Gregory Bell.* | NO CLASS THIS WEEK

Don't let us go dry.
Be a scotch or arak sponsor. To sponsor or contribute go
to shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring a class. Go to:
shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass

Parnas Office Hours
Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you.
Please schedule a visit at parnas@shearithisrael.org.

Our next public tour is:
Wednesday, April 13 at 11:00 am